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Black Power Encyclopedia: From "Black is Beautiful" to Urban Uprisings

Robert Tench
Old Dominion University, ftench@odu.edu

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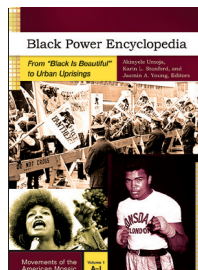
★ **Black Power Encyclopedia: From “Black Is Beautiful” to Urban Uprisings.**

2 vols. Greenwood. Jul. 2018. 917p. ed. by Akinyele Umoja & others. photos. index. ISBN 9781440840067. \$189; ebk. ISBN 9781440840074. HIST

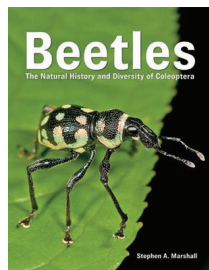
Umoja (African American studies, Georgia State Univ.), Karin L. Stanford (political science & Africana studies, California State Univ., Northridge), and historian Jasmin A. Young detail the origins, major players, ideologies, themes, and legacy of the 1960s and 1970s Black Power movement in the United States, and emphasize how it still influences modern-day African American social, political, and cultural life. This authoritative, engaging encyclopedia opens with five overview essays that deftly lay out key elements such as the role of women in the black freedom struggle as well as differences in approaches between the movement's leaders and those of the more mainstream civil rights struggle. In addition to entries on topics such as Malcolm X, black bookstores, and police brutality, the work includes excerpts from interviews, government agency documents, speeches, and letters. Among the contributors are academics, scholars, students, and participants in the movement. The lengthy chronology and comprehensive further reading resources in the essay on Black Power studies are particularly impressive. **VERDICT** This outstanding portrait of a fascinating and influential chapter of American life is indispensable for any library serving those interested in African American studies, cultural studies, and race relations.—

Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA

Carving Up the Globe: An Atlas of Diplomacy. Belknap: Harvard Univ. Jun. 2018. 256p. ed. by Malise Ruthven. maps. index. ISBN 9780674976245. \$39.95. HIST



Black Power in the 1960s and 1970s; the common but commonly misunderstood beetle



Ruthven, a former BBC journalist and a scholar of Islam and fundamentalism (*Islam: A Very Short Introduction*) introduces her work with a lucid and fascinating history of the practices and products of diplomacy, as that art evolved in conjunction with emerging European nation states. The first of 100 beautiful full-color maps shows the approximate territorial impact of the Treaty of Mesilim (2550 BCE). A brief entry on the treaty is followed, in chronological order, by concise (unillustrated) accounts of agreements in Syria and then Sparta. Maps vary in size and scope; punctuating global spreads describe “The World in 1 CE,” 1400, 1800, 1900; and 2000. Short entries offer key details about terms, motives, and significance. A dozen world-shifting treaties get double-page coverage. Besides territorial, sectarian, ethnic, legal, political, or economic agreements, pacts cited here regulated use of weapons (nuclear, chemical, biological, land mines) and of the environment. Further reading is listed, but the index is limited (“China” finds only four treaties). The focus on diplomacy bypasses discussion of cartographic naming, e.g., Persian/Arabian Gulf; and nontreaty “carving,” e.g., the Partition of India. Western pacts dominate, but large pages and small type ensure a

splendid bounty of information, including a diplomatic glossary. **VERDICT** A sweeping but succinct overview, this work will be important to historians but ought to interest every global citizen.—Patricia D. Lothrop, formerly of St. George's Sch., Newport, RI

Marshall, Stephen A. Beetles: The Natural History and Diversity of Coleoptera. Firefly. Oct. 2018. 784p. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780228100690. \$95. sci

Beetles are everywhere, an unsurprising fact when we consider they are one of the most common living things on Earth. Marshall (entomology, Sch. of Environmental Sciences, Univ. of Guelph, Ontario; *Flies: The Natural History and Diversity of Diptera*) provides broad and specific details about beetles around the world. He also shares his own experiences in this first-person narrative. Part 1 considers beetles in general—their biology and history—while the second part examines beetles throughout the world and how they differ. This is a daunting read for novices. The book jumps right into the structure of beetles, assuming that readers have some prior knowledge, or at least the motivation to continue wading through heady material. However, though the author states that this is “not a field guide,” those interested in learning to identify beetles will find the volume extremely helpful. Chapters seven through ten break down beetles into family groups, with plenty of photographs illustrating the groups described. The end material, which includes information on collecting and preserving beetles, also provides thoughtful tips for photographing them. As the author is also the photographer of many of the pictures featured, the advice is welcome. **VERDICT** For educated, devoted entomologists.—Elissa Cooper, Helen Plum Memorial Lib., Lombard, IL

ereviews

Weiss Ratings Database

Grey House;
greyhouse.weissratings.com

■ By Brett Rohlwing

CONTENT Reliable financial information is hard to find on the web. There's plenty of advice everywhere, especially for those willing to pay for it, but it can be biased and expensive. Subscription databases fill this gap but are often narrowly focused or seem data-heavy. The Weiss Ratings Database offers a welcome middle ground, providing solid data, balanced coverage, and a broad scope of easy-to-use financial products.

The goal of the database is to offer “powerful new tools to protect your finances, invest wisely, grow your wealth, and learn more about your finances.” To that end, users will find ratings for stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, as well as banks, credit unions, insurers, and consumer guides on prescription drug plans, health savings accounts, eldercare options, managing debt, and starting a retirement savings plan. Users will get a one-stop-

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